



Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Update

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CEPPT: A Rose by Any Other Name

New Names (and Faces) at EPA Region 9

by Kathryn Lawrence

The response planning artists formerly known as the Chemical Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Team (CEPPT) will henceforth be known as the Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Section (EPPS). This change is in keeping with the region's all-hazards approach to response and it recognizes the program's close alignment with the Region 9 Emergency Response Section. A similar transition is occurring at EPA Headquarters, in which the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) has merged with the Emergency Response and Oil programs that were originally aligned with the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). The organization's new name is the Office of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response.

Now Available: 2003 Tier2 Submit Software

by Mike Ardito

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Tier2 Submit 2003 software is now available on EPA's Office of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (OEPPR) national Web site at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/tier2.htm> The Web site also contains background information on EPCRA Tier 2 requirements and links to information about supplemental state Tier 2 requirements.

EPA Proposes Grants for Homeland Security

by Mike Ardito

For the second year, EPA Headquarter's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has announced that its Innovation Work Group pilot grant program has included a priority category for homeland security related to chemical emergency prevention, preparedness and response. All government, non-profit and public education institutions are eligible to apply for the grants with the application cycle due dates of Dec. 5, 2003 and April 16, 2004. (Projects awarded are usually in the \$10,000 to \$40,000 range.) The six criteria for the projects are: (1) addresses a critical challenge or unmet need; (2) fosters innovative approaches to environmental challenges; (3) can measure and evaluate success; (4) builds and strengthens partnerships with state, tribal and local governments or interested citizens; (5) can be replicated; and (6) leads to short term results. For more information, please check EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/iwg>.

Homeland Security Vulnerability Assessments and EPA

Site Security at Chemical Facilities
by Mary Wesling

Physical security at facilities which store, use or produce chemicals has always been a concern because of the risk posed by a release to human health and the environment. Since 9/11, the risk of attack by terrorists has been added to the list of potential concerns at these facilities. To assist facilities with physical security assessments, EPA has been providing information on security vulnerability assessment models to state, tribal and local agencies and facilities. Region 9 has sponsored workshops, presented at conferences and provided information to facilities during on-site visits. A number of laws or amendments to existing laws have been enacted which address federal oversight of site security and infrastructure protection. These laws include the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Bioterrorism Act), the Marine Transportation Safety Act (MTSA) (33 CFR 101), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Design Basis Threat (DBT) (10 CFR 50 & 73).

Additional bills concerning site security at chemical facilities have been introduced in Congress. On Thursday, October 23, 2003, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved S994, a bill to require chemical manufacturers, producers, and users to submit vulnerability assessments and security plans to the Department of Homeland Security. Currently, there is no companion bill being considered in the



Site Security at Chemical Facilities continued

further action. The bill offered a potential waiver opportunity for those industries or facilities that have already completed an assessment and risk management plan that, after review by the Department of Homeland Security, could be deemed “substantially equivalent.” It is unclear how this new requirement would affect those facilities that are required to submit SVAs under other laws, such as drinking water treatment facilities and port facilities. US EPA is the implementing agency for the compliance with the Bioterrorism Act at drinking water treatment facilities, as well as the requirements of CAA §112(r) at chemical facilities.

RRT-IX Regional Contingency Plan

by Bill Robberson

Regional Response Team IX (RRT-IX) is a formal planning, policy and coordinating body responsible for ensuring that state and federal resources are available when needed to protect the public health, welfare and the environment of the United States.



Although RRT-IX does not respond directly to the scene of a spill or release, during an incident it does provide assistance and support to Federal On-Scene-Coordinators (OSCs) as requested. Federal OSCs are responsible for deploying federal resources during an emergency response or removal.

The RRT-IX Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) is a clearinghouse of state, tribal and federal emergency response information that may be of value to responders and stakeholders and/or would improve multi-agency coordination during a response.

Examples of information found in the RCP include:

- federal, state and tribal agency response authorities and roles,
- emergency response notification and contact information,
- inland zone and coastal zone response policies and procedures,

- maps and descriptions of the geographic boundaries between US EPA (inland zone) and US Coast Guard (coastal zone) response jurisdictions,
- federal, state and tribal emergency response support resources and capabilities,
- applicable MOUs, MOAs, Letters of Agreement, etc. that may apply in an emergency response in Region 9,
- information which may affect the operations, planning, logistics or finance of an incident, and
- other information of value to incident responders and stakeholders in Region 9.

RRT-IX is nearing completion of an extensive RCP reformatting and revision process. If you would like a copy or have comments or input for the RCP, please contact Mr. Tom Merritt at (415) 972-3068 or merritt.tom@epa.gov.

RMP Update

Proposed changes to the Risk Management Program (RMP).

by Angie Proboszcz

Amendments to the RMP submission schedule and data requirements were proposed in the Federal Register on July 31, 2003 (68 FR 45124). We expect to finalize the amendments in early 2004. EPA proposes to modify the re-submission schedule for sources that have significant accidents and for those that change emergency contact information. EPA also proposes to add three data elements to the RMP, to make several revisions to the submission format, and to remove the regulatory requirement to include a discussion of the off-site consequence analysis in the RMP executive summary. The proposed amendments can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2003/July/Day-31/a19281.htm>

Please note that RMPs submitted before amendments are finalized and effective in early 2004 may need to be resubmitted to ensure compliance with any new data requirements.

A new version of RMP*Submit (EPA's free Risk Management Plan submission software) will accommodate any new requirements that are finalized from the July 31 proposal. At the time the new requirements become effective, the new RMP*Submit version will be on-line and the previous version will no longer be available or accepted for submissions.

Questions may also be directed to Angie Proboszcz, EPA Region 9 Risk Management Program Coordinator, at (415) 972-3077, or e-mail at proboszcz.angie@epa.gov



Know the Numbers

EPCRA and RMP Call Center Number:

1-800-424-9346 (M-F, 9-5 ET)

Web: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline

email: epacallcenter@bah.com



National Response Center Number:

1-800-424-8802 (24 / 7 / 365)

NEW U.S. EPA Regional Spill Hotline Number:

1-800-300-2193

If you dial 1-800-300-2193, you will have three choices:

Press 1 for the National Response Center

Press 2 for the EPA Region 9 the environmental information hotline

Press 3 for the Regional Response Center duty officer

Cameo and New Region 9 Support

by Janice Witul

Support for CAMEO is now available in EPA Region 9. The Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) suite includes a set of databases, along with a toxic gas plume model - Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres (ALOHA), and an electronic mapping program - Mapping Applications for Response, Planning, and Operational Tasks (MARPLOT).

CAMEO is used to access, store, and evaluate information needed for emergency response to hazardous materials incidents (much of this information is found on facility hazardous materials inventory forms), or maintaining Tier II information submitted by facilities. In addition, the program is often used to develop hazardous materials emergency plans for a community by assessing hazards from accidental releases of locally stored hazardous chemicals.

The CAMEO modules are a set of databases that contain information for responders and planners. The Chemical Library contains information and response recommendations on fire and explosive hazards, health hazards, fire-fighting techniques, cleanup procedures, and protective clothing recommendations for over 6000 chemicals. You can use other CAMEO modules to maintain records on facilities, the inventories of chemicals at those facilities ("Tier II data"), emergency planning resources and contacts, and special locations such as schools and hospitals. The screening/scenario module of CAMEO can be used to fulfill the hazards assessment required by the general duty clause of the Clean Air Act section 112(r)(1).

MARPLOT can be used to view and print maps of a community that show roads, facilities, schools, response assets, and other information useful for response and planning tasks. On these maps, you also can overlay predicted hazard zones (areas that could be contaminated). ALOHA is used to estimate how far downwind a chemical cloud might disperse, based on the characteristics of the released chemical, atmospheric conditions, and the circumstances of the release. ALOHA displays a "cloudfootprint" that you can plot on a map in MARPLOT. On the same map, you also can check the locations of vulnerable locations such as hospitals and schools to see which ones could be affected by a gas release.

Using US Geological Survey information contained in LandView, another program that may be used with MARPLOT and CAMEO, it is possible to get information on the population in an area. This may be useful in situations where notification or evacuation may be necessary, and advance planning information such as numbers of households would be important. LandView contains census 2000 data for most areas and may be used in conjunction with RMP Comp and MARPLOT to gather information required for the RMP resubmittal due in June 2004.

For questions regarding CAMEO and these associated programs, contact Janice Witul at witul.janice@epa.gov or (415) 972-3089.

Tribal News

by Jerome Ellis

Two new Tribal grants have been issued to the Hopi Tribe (Arizona) and the Trinidad Rancheria (California). The Hopi grant will accomplish a long-time goal of establishing a "Hopi Emergency Services Office" to coordinate all emergency planning and response issues on the reservation. The Office will also work to ensure that the already functioning emergency response plan is approved and adopted by the full Hopi Council. The Trinidad Rancheria grant will update the Trinidad Rancheria HazMat Emergency Response Plan and use that knowledge of their "how-to" to network and aid other Rancherias/Bands in Northwest California. Plans were laid for two site visits to do a hazard analysis and write a hazmat emergency response plan for two Tribes - the Quechan and the Havasupai, both located in Arizona.

The annual three-day Regional Tribal Conference was held this year at the Pechanga Reservation in Temecula, CA. Jerry Ellis and Sam Agpawa gave presentations on EPCRA and "Beyond Dialing Nine One One" in which emergency preparedness and response topics were covered.



The Sister City Plans & Border 2012 Binational Emergency Response Plan Signed in the San Diego/Tijuana Area

by Lauren Volpini

US EPA Region 9 has assisted four pairs of Sister Cities in the Arizona and Sonora border to develop and sign cross border emergency response agreements. Over the past 18 months, the US EPA's US/Mexico Border Program for Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Response funded and helped facilitate a formal trilateral agreement among the County of San Diego and the Cities of Tijuana and San Diego to protect the public and the environment from exposures of hazardous materials due to accidental or deliberate actions. A binational, multi-agency Steering Committee collaborated on a Memorandum of Understanding and a Plan to prevent and prepare for hazmat incidents, identify and reduce the risks posed by industry and transportation and, develop a protocol to communicate and respond in the event of a hazmat release.



Tijuana City Hall, October 24, 2003. Signing Ceremony for the Binational Hazardous Materials Prevention and Emergency Response Plan among the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, CA and the City of Tijuana, Baja CA.

Over the next few months, the Steering Committee will re-establish itself as a formal Border 2012 Task Force in order to implement the MOU and exercise and maintain the Plan. The ***San Diego/Tijuana Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force*** will be chaired by Mike Dorsey, Chief of the San Diego County Environmental Health Division's HazMat Division and, Alejandro Alvarez, PROFEPA Delegate of the State of Baja California. US EPA Region 9's Lauren Volpini will continue to provide the Task Force with support, technical assistance and resources as they dedicate themselves to the important agenda they have before them.

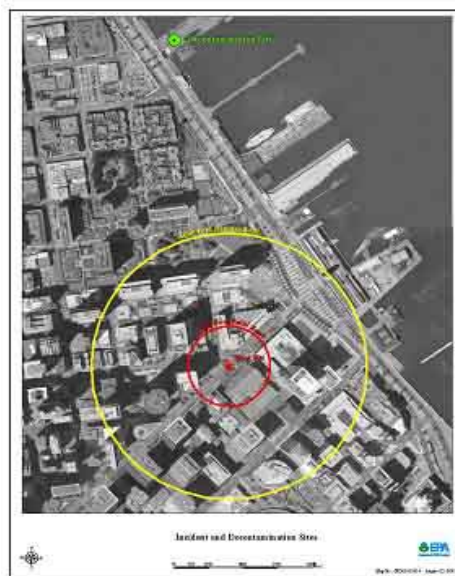
New National Response Plan *by Michael Ardito*

Along with formation of the new Department of Homeland Security earlier this year, the President issued a directive that federal emergency plans be coordinated under a new National Response Plan (NRP). Federal agencies are in the midst of figuring out what changes will need to be made for existing written plans and protocols which are to be updated, as appropriate, and to bring them into conformance with the new NRP. The initial NRP was issued on Sept. 26, 2003. The purpose of the action is "to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The U.S. Government shall establish a single comprehensive approach to domestic incident management."

Radiological Dispersion Device Exercise or 'Dirty Bomb' Exercise

by Bill Robberson

EPA Region 9 held a Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD or "Dirty Bomb") exercise in San Francisco, California on August 26 and 27, 2003. This exercise focused on the necessity to prepare for complicated scenarios involving radiological devices. A radiological incident requires close collaboration between Federal, State, and local agencies in all phases of planning, response, recovery, and mitigation.



The scenario for this exercise involved a terrorist-related dirty bomb explosion in the financial district of San Francisco. Numerous injuries were reported, and first responders detected beta radiation at the scene.



'Dirty Bomb' Exercise (continued)

The event was designed to review the roles and responsibilities of all responders and agencies that would respond to a radiological incident; build upon existing relationships within EPA and among Federal, State, and local stakeholders; and to discuss radiological incident response and recovery operations.

Participants were encouraged to examine decisions made by Federal, State, and local agencies throughout the course of the presented disaster. Situation briefings described the progress of events, as well as Federal, State, and local activities that would be underway. Additionally, Special Topic Briefings were presented to educate participants or clarify new concepts.

There are several over-arching issue categories that were identified during exercise discussion, each having numerous specific issues. These categories are:

- Direction, Control, and Coordination;
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment;
- Hazard Management;
- Resource Management;
- Planning;
- Communications and Warning; and
- Operations and Procedures.

Significant issues that surfaced during the exercise under these categories included:

Communications

- Risk Communication with the public should deliver one message and control panic;
- Pre-planned radio frequencies for responders should be identified to assist in communications;
- Responders should have access to translators for the many languages present in San Francisco;
- Radiation detection devices should be upgraded so radiation levels are quickly identified and communicated to responders; and
- Risk communications should consider national security restrictions.

Health and Safety

- Long-term affects should be tracked (i.e., medical monitoring);
- Responder physical and mental health should be a priority;
- All responders should be fit- tested and trained in the appropriate personal protective equipment; and
- Federal and state occupational safety and health agency should be involved in an advisory role during a response.

Clean up and Debris

- Clean-up levels should be standardized;
- Decontamination techniques should be identified;
- Viable transportation routes for disposal of debris should be identified.

Citizen Corps

- Helpful citizens could exacerbate a situation; and
- Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) should be trained on radiological incidents.

At the close of the exercise, participants were urged to continue tackling these problems and to determine what they could do in their own staff sections, directorates, and separate offices to help resolve these issues. EPA is in the process of implementing a number of follow-up action to address the issues that were identified. For more information, contact Bill Robberson at (415) 972-3072.

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Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Leadership Award Winners

2003: California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI)

CSTI in San Luis Obispo, CA is recognized for providing to almost 300,000 responders (over the last third-century) a renowned and valuable professional training program statewide, nationally and internationally for fire, hazmat, medical, emergency management, public works and other emergency response. In the post-9/11 era, CSTI enhanced and expanded its anti-terrorism training program. In academic year 2002-3, CSTI certified over 24,000 students for hazmat response.

2002: Honolulu Local Emergency Planning Committee

Recognition for successfully serving as a nationwide model for hosting the annual NASTTPO conference in Honolulu during April 2002 (the first after events of 9/11) and concurrently developing a full-field CHER-CAP (Community Hazards Emergency Response Capability Assurance Program) exercise involving about 2,000 people in the community of Campbell Industrial Park that was held on May 22, 2002.

2001: Gila River Chemical Tribal Emergency Response Commission

Recognition for successfully developing a chemical emergency response plan, and revitalizing the Gila River's Chemical Tribal Emergency Response Commission that is serving as an exemplary model to other tribes.

2000: Nevada State Emergency Response Commission with Clark County Emergency Management and LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee)

Recognition for leadership in developing a training conference for hazmat response and planning, HazMat Explo, and partnering with the mid-year conference of NASTTPO (National Association of SARA Title Three Program Officials) and the EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Conference.

1999: Arizona State Emergency Response Commission

Recognition for leadership with Gatekeeper workshops and newsletters plus support for developing electronic reporting databases: Project BOLDER (Basic On-Line Disaster Emergency Response); CAMEO '99 (Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations) national training conference; and development of the electronic EPCRA Tier 2 reporting.

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